IV. *A Letter from the late Mr.* Edward Lhwyd, *Keeper of the* Aſhmolean Muſeum *in* Oxford, *to Dr.* Tancred Robinſon, *F. R. S. containing ſeveral Obſervations in Natural Hiſtory, made in his Travels thro'* Wales.

Swanſey, Glamorganſhire, Sept. 14. 1696.

Honoured Sir,

AT *Snowdon* Hills we met with little or nothing additional to what is in Mr. *Ray*'s *Synopſis*; only the *little Bulb* I found plentifully in flower; and in one of the Lakes I gather'd a ſmall Plant, which I ſuſpect to be undeſcrib'd. I have given Orders to watch the *Subularia*; but the Lake where it grows is ſo high, that Men have ſeldom occaſion to come near it, ſo that I have but ſlender hopes of any account of its flowering. I ſent Roots of what rare Plants I met with, to the Duke of *Beaufort*'s, my Lord of *London*'s, and the Phyſick Garden at *Oxford*; and planted many of them at the Biſhop of *Bangor*'s Garden, which is about 7 Miles from theſe Mountains. I have dried ſeveral Paterns of moſt of them; as alſo of ſuch Plants as our Sea Coaſts afford, which are conſiderable for Number; amongſt which I think I have two or three undeſcrib'd.

I ſearched diligently in theſe Mountains for Figured Stones; but met with none at all, except cubical Marchaſites, and Cryſtals, whereof I found one about 9 Inches long, and thicker than my Wriſt, tranſparent as Glaſs for the better half, but opaque towards the Root like white Marble. Some ſmall ones I met with of the colour

colour of a Topaze; and was inform'd of others purely Amethyſtine, found in the Valley of *Nant Phrancon*. I find our Anceſtors (for want of more precious Stones) made themſelves Beads of opaque, or Marble Cryſtal; for I have one given me, cut like a Lottery-ball, and perforated; found not long ſince in *Meirionydhſhire*. I deſire to know whether you are ſatisfy'd, that thoſe tranſparent Stones figured by Dr. *Plot*, and by Dr. *Liſter* [Phil. Tranſact. N°. 201.] by the name of *Ombriæ*, &c. are ſo form'd naturally. One of them was lately given me (ſet in Copper with a little Handle to it) by the name of *Tlãs Owen Kyveiliog*, i. e. *Owen* of *Kyveiliog*'s Jewel; ſo call'd, becauſe found in an old *Crig* or *Barrow*, near the Place where he lived.

Sir *William Williams* hath ſeveral *Welſh* MSS. (tho' I think no Dictionary) that would be of uſe to me; but his Son tells me, he's reſolv'd never to lend any. They are chiefly Modern Copies out of *Hengwrt* Study in *Meirionydhſhire*, which I am promis'd free Acceſs to; and have this time taken a Catalogue of all the ancient MSS. it contains. There are the Works of *Talieſyn*, *Aneuryn gwawdydh*, *Myrdhyn ab Morvryn*, and *Kygodio Elaeth*, who lived in the 5th and 6th Centuries (but the ſmall MS. containing them all ſeems to have been copied about 500 Years ago) as alſo of ſeveral others valuable in their kind. I muſt intreat you to direct me, if you can, how to procure the uſe of the *Corniſh* MSS. you mention at Mr. *Anſtiſſe*'s. I have been told one Mr *Keygwyn*, who died of late Years in *Cornwal*, left a ſort of Dictionary of the Language: Perhaps Mr *Meyle*, or ſome other of your Acquaintance in that Country, can tell us whether it be true, or a miſtake.

We have neither the *Ibex* nor *Rupicapra* in *Wales*, nor any other Goat but the Common. In our Language the Park Deer is call'd *Geivr Danas*: The former Word ſignifies *Goats*, but whether the latter implies *Daniſh*

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(as if Deer had come from *Denmark*) or ſomewhat elſe, we know not.

The Grey Game (tho' I have not heard of the name) ſeems to be the Female of the Black; which we call *Gryg-ieir*, i. e. *Gallinæ ericetorum*. The Red Game we call *ieir y mynydh*, i. e. *Gallinulæ montanæ*; becauſe in our Country they keep to the higheſt Hills, or Alps, [in Welſh *banneu*,] eſpecially if heathy.

There came this laſt *May* into *Cardiganſhire* two ſtrange Birds (as I gueſs by the Deſcription given them) of the Aquatic fiſſiped Tribe. They ſay they were almoſt two Yards tall, and of a whitiſh colour, with the Tips of their Wings dark. I took 'em to be ſome ſort of Exotic Crane; which, whether they portend a Common-Wealth or not, I leave to their Interpretation who regard *Omens*.

This time two Years, there came a Flock of Birds [about a Hundred] to a Hemp-yard, at a place called *Lhan Dhewi Velfrey* in *Pembrokeſhire*; and in one Afternoon deſtroyed all the Hempſeed. They deſcribed the Cocks to be all over red as Scarlet; the Hens greeniſh above, and red underneath; about as big, or little leſs than Blackbirds; with Bills more ſtubbed and bigger than that of a Bull-finch. I ſuſpect theſe to have been *Virginia* Nightingals; otherwiſe, I know not what to make of them.

Our Lakes (tho' they are very numerous) afford no Fiſh that I can hear of, beſides Trout and Eel, and *Torgoch* and *Gwiniad*, i. e. Shelley and Charre. A Fiſherman proteſted to me, that in a Lake called *Lhyn y Cwn* near *Lhan Berys*, he had ſeveral times catch'd Monocular Trouts, the Heads whereof were always ſomewhat diſtorted or contracted awry. They farther aſſured me, that the two higheſt Lakes of *Snowdon* (*Phynnon Vrêch* and *Phynnon lâs*) afford no Fiſh at all; and that the Trouts of the other Lakes differ much in colour: But

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theſe things muſt, and ſhall (God willing) be better inquired into.

Next Summer come Twelvemouth, I intend to try the Barometer and Thermometer on the Top of *Snowdon* and *Cader Idris*, and to take their perpendicular Height, and do any thing elſe that you ſhall adviſe, which may be done conveniently.

There is no Brimſtone or Pumice-ſtones on the Tops of our Mountains, nor any thing elſe that I ſuſpect to have been the Effects of Vulcano's. What ſeemed to me moſt ſtrange, were waſte confus'd Stones, and (to appearance) fragments of Rocks, ſtanding on the Surface of the Earth, not only in wide Plains, but on the Summits alſo of the higheſt Mountains.

I have never ſeen any Lake or Spring on the Summit of a Hill. There are indeed on the tops of ſome Hills, where ſtood anciently Caſtles or Forts, certain Wells called in Welſh *Pydew*; a Word of the ſame Signification as well as Sound with the Latin *Puteus*: But no Water runs out of theſe; and ſeveral of them I found quite dry. I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obliged humble Servant,

E. LHWYD.